

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

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Assembly Member Mike Gordon (D – 53rd District) has introduced Assembly Bill 1380 (AB 1380), the Area Code Conservation and Consumer Protection Act of 2006. Public records currently show how many phone numbers are being consumed; however, they do not provide accurate information on how many numbers are being surrendered i.e. deaths, people moving, surrendered land lines, etc. AB 1380 will create rules for determining the inventory of numbering resources applicable to the telecommunications carriers that hold numbers (codes or blocks within rate centers) in California. The goal of AB 1380 is to avoid the premature exhaustion of an area code by providing carriers a clear and objective method to assess their inventory needs and require the carriers to return or donate surplus numbers for new procedures spelled out in the legislation.

AB 1380 has been introduced has a direct result of a California Public Utilities Commission Administrative Law Judge ruling in late 2004 calling for these procedures. In December 2004, on a narrow 3-2 vote by the Public Utilities Commission, the call for new procedures was rejected. However, there are currently 6 area codes in California which are in jeopardy of being needlessly split and all have over 2 million numbers still available for assignment. The average 6 month demand of carriers is able to be met from a 7 to over a 10 year period. In addition to the area code split, a group of carriers is calling for an overlay area code to be a back up plan for Los

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Angeles County's "310" area code. With the overlay plan, everyone who has the "310" area code or the proposed "424" area code, will have to place all calls by dialing the number one, the area code and the seven digit phone number.

Area code splits are costly and inconvenient to consumers because they necessitate numerous expenses such as changing letterhead and marketing plans, as well as contacting clients and others to inform them of number changes. Area code splits also represent a particular burden to seniors and the disabled community who face significant challenges in changing their dialing habits.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors support Assembly Bill 1380, and send correspondence to the Los Angeles County Delegation, State Assembly Members and Senators, members of the Assembly of the Utilities and Commerce Committee and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger urging support and early enactment of this important consumer protect legislation. It is important to note that numerous conservation efforts enacted over the past 5 years have been working for the "310" area code and have produced more numbers for available assignment than years before. The telecommunications industry has not been able to make a case for a need to split the "310" area code, and the new plan for a proposed overlay.

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